



e-News From *MAIEN*street

**A Neighborhood e-Newsletter From
Councilman Brian Maienschein**

June 2001

Volume 1, Issue 2



Proudly Representing
the
**District Five
Communities**
of:

Carmel Mountain Ranch

Kearny Mesa

Linda Vista

Mira Mesa

Rancho Bernardo

Sabre Springs

San Pasqual

Scripps Ranch

Sorrento Mesa

Maienschien funds RB Joslyn Senior Center ADA upgrades

Those of us who have grown up in the I-15 corridor understand the value of the Rancho Bernardo Senior Center and the wonderful services they have provided to our senior community for over ten years.

That's why I was so pleased to announce on May 30, that I would be utilizing over \$160,750 in Community Development Block Grant funds for an ADA retrofit project that will remove a number of architectural barriers that restrict the mobility and accessibility of the disabled.

The money will be used to fund the design and construction of new restrooms, door and partition widening, counter and sink top lowering, lowered drinking fountains, appropriate parking stalls and additional handrails and ramps into the facility.

I'm so proud to be able to support the many volunteers and community members who have made this center one of the jewels of Rancho Bernardo and I can't wait to see this project completed!



These badly needed funds will go a long way to improve disabled access to the Joslyn Center and help more seniors utilize the neighborhood services offered each day.

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Manager's budget priorities misguided, time to get back to basics

In May, the City Manger introduced his \$2.4 billion budget for Fiscal Year 2002 to the Mayor and Council for approval later this month.

For the past several weeks I have been carefully reviewing the budget line by line to ensure that your tax dollars are being spent responsibly on projects that are important to San Diego families.

Since taking office, I've attempted to incorporate some true fiscal responsibility into City Hall by redirecting spending into the needed infra-

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structure and deferred maintenance needs of our neighborhoods, which have been neglected for decades.

Well, unfortunately I have my work cut out for me, because instead of allocating substantial funds towards fixing our crumbling infrastructure, the City Manager has instead proposed adding 433 new City employees to the payroll. This is simply unacceptable!

Repaving streets, filling potholes, fixing sidewalks, building new parks and cleaning up our beaches and bays are all part of the back to basics budgeting that I've advocated for since taking office six months ago. We must begin tackling the over \$100 million deferred maintenance back-log if we are going to sustain the high quality of life we share here in San Diego.

Consequently, I have proposed a bold and innovative new plan to fund the deferred maintenance and infrastructure needs for this City. Recently, I asked the City Manager to create a new Public Infrastructure Fund that will be used to repair our crumbling streets instead of simply growing city government. It is my hope that this Council will invest a minimum of \$20 million into this account this year with a substantial increase in subsequent years.

"...it is estimated that we will need \$34.4 million each year just to keep up on filling potholes and repaving the over 3400 miles of streets and roads in the City of San Diego..."

I realize this is not nearly enough to solve our street repair needs, but it is a marked improvement over the paltry sums proposed by the previous Council. Over the course of my term on the City Council, I hope to convince my colleagues that even more dollars are needed to properly fund these repairs.

It is estimated that we will need \$34.4 million each year just to keep up on filling potholes and repaving the over 3400 miles of streets and roads in the City of San Diego, and over \$67.1 million to eliminate the backlog that our neighborhoods are currently facing.

Yet, the proposed budget only allocates \$5.5 million for street repairs for the entire City. It has become exceedingly clear that without my Public Infrastructure Fund, the priorities of San Diego will simply not be met.

I made a promise to the voters of the Fifth District to get back to basics at City Hall. I'm fulfilling this promise by investing your tax dollars into needed infrastructure projects that will help keep San Diego on the right track. Hopefully my colleagues will agree with me, support my plan, and get back to basics in our budgeting.

It is a pleasure to serve you on the San Diego City Council.



Freeway Congestion Strike Team keeps SR 56 project on track

In January of this year, Mayor Murphy and I formed the Freeway Traffic Congestion Strike Team to tackle the growing gridlock that is becoming an all too familiar part of our lives in this region. The major focus of the Traffic Congestion Strike Team has been and will continue to be SR 56, which as we all know is a critical component to providing serious traffic relief for the constituents in District Five.

I've worked hard to ensure this project is kept on track. Currently, the City is in the process of securing the remaining parcels of land to complete the right-of-way acquisition. In addition, the City and CalTrans are currently completing the roadway design and I expect that the final plan will be done by July. The City is also working with private developers to ensure that their projects related to SR 56 keep pace, so we don't face any unnecessary delays. I'm hopeful we will break ground on the final segment of SR 56 in Spring of 2002 with a completion date scheduled for Fall 2004.

The Freeway Traffic Congestion Strike Team meets every third Wednesday of the month at the City Administration Building on the 12th floor at 9:00 a.m. I encourage you to attend a future meeting to see first hand how serious I am about providing traffic solutions for the residents and businesses in District Five and the City of San Diego.

Redistricting and the future of the Fifth District

Once every ten years, the San Diego City Council embarks upon a complex and sometimes controversial process of redistricting, which is the process of redrawing each council district to reflect the changes in demographics as defined by the census.

This time around the City Council has vested the power of redistricting into a Redistricting Commission—a nine member board that has the sole responsibility to fairly redraw the district map, taking into consideration population, neighborhood similarities and sometimes even ethnicity.

The Redistricting Commission's decision will be binding unless challenged in the Courts or through petitioning for a city-wide vote.

According to census figures, each district should have approximately 152,925 residents. District Five is currently the most populated district with 188,565, which means I will have to shed approximately 25,000 people to bring it into balance with the other council districts and within the 10% variance threshold as mandated by federal law.

Of course I'd prefer to keep every one of our families in District Five. But unfortunately that decision will be left up to the Redistricting Commission. I'll keep you posted as more information is made available and as the September due date moves closer.



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e-News From *MAIEN*street
City Administration Building
202 C Street, MS 10-A
San Diego, CA 92101

Phone: 619-236-6655
Fax: 619-238-0915
Email: Brian.Maienschein@cd5.sannet.gov
Web: www.sannet.gov/city-council/district-5

Your District Five Staff:

Lance Witmond
Chief of Staff

Scott Crider
Chief of Policy

Michael Simonsen
Legislative Analyst

Nikki Balolong
Council Representative

Clint Carney
Council Representative

Rob Knudsen
Council Representative

Christine Young
Office Manager/Scheduler

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brian.maienschein@cd5.sannet.gov

It's a pleasure to serve you on the San Diego City Council!!